

By-Cycle

Bicycle News from the
Maricopa County Department of Transportation



November 2000

Volume 1:11

MAG to allocate CMAQ funds

On November 21, 2000, the MAG Transportation Review Committee will be meeting to discuss and allocate about \$35 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for projects submitted by MAG agencies. The funding is split between seven modes: Air Quality and Transportation Demand Management; Streets; Intelligent Transportation Systems; Transit; Bicycles; Pedestrians; and Telecommunications. The meeting is open to the public and citizens will be allowed to comment on specific projects and the amount of funding allocated for each mode.

San Tan Input Needed

On November 16th, the Town of Gilbert will host a meeting with the State Citizens' Transportation Oversight Committee (CTOC). This will be the first opportunity in a public forum for cyclists to influence the design and construction of the San Tan Freeway. It is critical that the freeway not be allowed to restrict future bicycle travel in the East Valley.

The Town of Gilbert is requesting a good showing from the bicycle community to speak up and talk about what should be included in the design of the freeways to prevent them from being huge barriers.

The meeting on November 16th is of special interest to residents of Gilbert, Chandler, Mesa, and Maricopa County. It is important that the design of the San Tan Freeway provides adequate access to users of alternative transportation modes and recognizes that connectivity is an essential

Meetings

November 2000

Public Meeting Schedule

The public meeting schedule is subject to change. Please call to confirm dates and times. For on-line information go to:
www.maricopa.gov/

11.9.2000

Dove Valley Road/62-68th St

Location: Cactus Shadows High School
5802 E. Dove Valley Road
Cave Cree, AZ
Leon Ada, 602-506-4684
Time: 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

11.14.2000

MCDOT Bicycle Advisory Committee

Location: Maricopa County Department of
Transportation - Maricopa Room
2901 W. Durango St. Phoenix, AZ
reedkempston@mail.maricopa.gov
602-506-1630
Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

11.16.2000

State Citizens' Transportation Oversight Committee

Location: Gilbert Town Hall Council
Chambers
1025 S. Gilbert Road
Gilbert, AZ
Tami Ryall 480-503-6765
timir@ci.gilbert.az.us

11.21.2000

MAG Transportation Review Committee CMAQ Meeting

Location: MAG - Saguaro Room
302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ
Time: 10 a.m. - 12 noon
reedkempston@mail.maricopa.gov

component of a regional, comprehensive transportation system.

The CTOC was created to serve as a “watchdog” over the Maricopa County Freeway System for the citizens. Each meeting, CTOC travels to a new city in the Valley to listen to concerns relating to freeway design from that area. If you would like more information contact Tami Ryall at 480-503-6765 or tamir@ci.gilbert.az.us.

The specifics on the meeting are:

November 16, 2000

6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Gilbert Town Hall Council Chambers

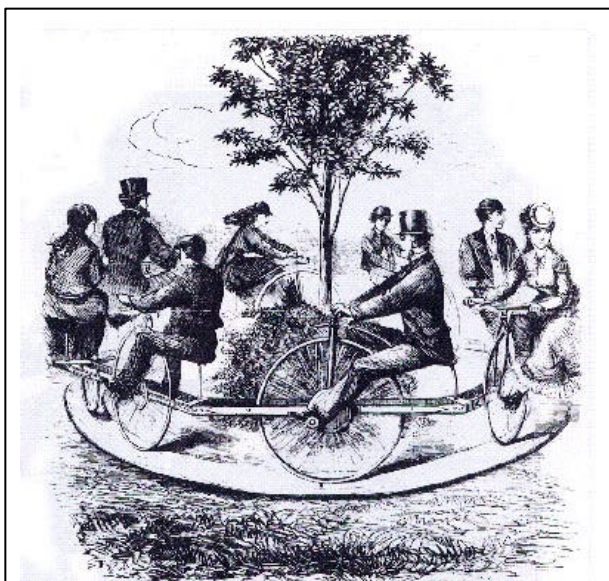
1025 S. Gilbert Road

(Gilbert Road just south of Warner - maps available if you like)

Ohio Court Ruling Favors Bicyclists

In a ruling that should bolster cyclists rights to the road everywhere, last week Ohio’s Second Appellate District Court reversed the decision of a lower court in the case of Steven Selz, who had been previously found guilty and fined \$100 for “impeding traffic” while bicycling in Trotwood, Ohio. Mr. Selz had been ticketed in July 1999 for allegedly violating a local ordinance prohibiting operating “a vehicle at such a slow speed as to impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic.” Mr. Selz was stopped on a five-lane road and not charged with violating a law requiring cyclists to ride as far to the right as practicable.

The court stated that “We agree with Mr. Selz that the ordinance cannot reasonably be read as prohibiting bicyclists from using a public highway.” The court also agreed that Mr. Selz was traveling virtually as fast as a reasonable cyclist could travel when he was ticketed and that charging him with impeding traffic based solely on speed was inappropriate. Mr. Selz received support from the Ohio Bicycle Federation’s Legal Defense Fund. For more information on the case, visit <http://www.ohiobike.org>.



These Valley cyclists are participating in an activity known as recreational cycling. There are no origins, destinations, or links normally associated with a trip. If a trip were involved, the ride would be for transportation.

1999 Highway Deaths Up Slightly

The National Transportation Safety Board released data that shows 43,986 people died in travel-related accidents in 1999. That was just two less than in 1998.

Highway deaths totaled 41,611 in 1999, up from 41,501 a year earlier. That includes 20,771 passenger-car fatalities, up from 21,141; 11,208 deaths in light trucks and vans, up from 10,665 and 2,471 on motorcycles, up from 2,292.

The number of pedestrians killed declined from 5,228 in 1998 to 4,906 last year.

There were also 746 people killed while riding bikes, down from 757 in 1998; 755 deaths in medium and heavy trucks, up from 739; 58 bus deaths, up from 38; and 696 people killed on other ways on the roads, up from 641.

National Transportation Safety Board:
<http://www.nts.gov>

Bicycle Advisory Committee

Over several years, we have discovered something new. Sitting on committees, participating in discussions on bicycle routes, lanes, and paths really makes ideas start to blossom and happen. At least it works better than putting on your lycra and riding around City Hall, yelling because they won't do things your way. Many citizens have found it is more productive to work with cities, counties, and the state than to work against them.

Now, I'd like to speak for the Maricopa County Bicycle Advisory Committee. Is our job done? We worked to establish a "Bike Plan" in Maricopa County. We directed staff in putting the plan together, talked it through committees until it was passed by the Board of Supervisors, unanimously. However, the work isn't done. The job now is to keep the plan before the Transportation Committee and on the desks of planners and engineers. We don't want it filed in some mysterious bookshelf somewhere, where it is easy to ignore.

We need to let the staff know we are still here and still want bicycle lanes on the roads, paths on the canals, and trails through the backcountry of Maricopa County. This is hard to do without a committee. If you want to be involved, we have several openings on the Maricopa County Bicycle Advisory Committee. We meet the second Tuesday, every other month, between 2:30 and 4 p.m. If you want a job on a volunteer committee come to a meeting and help improve cycling for everyone.

Bob Bogle, BAC, Chairman



Park plan seeks to remove cars from Grand Canyon rim.

Canyon View Information Plaza Opens

On October 26, 2000 the National Park Service opened Canyon View Information Plaza, a new state of the art transportation/orientation hub.

The opening of this facility represents the first major step in implementing the park's 1995 General Management Plan, a plan that focused on public transportation and enhanced educational and recreational opportunities. The Grand Canyon Greenway, a multi-use trail system will eventually extend from Canyon View Information Plaza to the future Grand Canyon Transit Center north of Tusayan, and to Desert View and Hermits Rest.

The facility will eventually serve as a hub for four modes of transportation; bus, train, biking, and hiking.

For additional information visit our web site at www.nps.gov/grca/mgmt/

MCDOT Bicycle Web Page

www.mcdot.maricopa.gov/Bicycle/

Governmental Internet Portal



It just became easier to find US government information on the Internet. A new, one-stop Internet site consolidates 20,000 government Web sites. FirstGov.gov allows users to search for information by topic. The purpose of the site is to make it easier and faster to find government-related information. <http://www.firstgov.gov/>



Do cell phones cause accidents?

The NHTSA National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has produced a report, *An Investigation of the Safety Implications of Wireless Communications in Vehicles*, presenting a variety of options for enhancing the safe use of cellular telephones by drivers and addressing the many issues raised. <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/research/wireless/>



FHWA Awards Funds

Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater has announced more than \$200 million awarded to projects through the Federal Highway Administration's various discretionary funding programs, including \$20 million for Scenic Byways and \$47 million for the Transportation and Community and System Preservation pilot program (TCSP).

Of the \$47 million of TCSP grants, approximately \$16.5 million goes to bicycle and pedestrian projects including almost \$700,000 for two pedestrian bridges in California, \$940,000 for pedestrian bridges over the Arkansas river in Wichita, Kan.; \$563,000 for planning of trails and an intermodal facility in downtown Bangor, Maine; \$300,000 for a trail in Angola, Indiana; greenways in New Jersey, New York, Virginia and Washington; walkability initiatives in Manchester, Vt. (\$350,000), and Edgewater, Ill (\$93,000); and \$1 million for pedestrian improvements and traffic calming to North Street, Burlington, Vt.

Arizona was not one of the 35 states receiving funding. For more information: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/pressroom/fhwa0065.htm>

On your left!

Summer is finally gone and those of you who were whining about it being too hot to ride are now ready to hit the roads for a couple of weeks before it gets too cold.

Be prepared to be caught in the dark. The sun goes down pretty quick now and you don't want to be one of those stealth cyclists. You know the ones I'm talking about. They use no lights and are totally invisible until the moment of impact.

Arizona State law requires a headlight and a rear reflector on a bicycle being used in the dark. I personally use a dual beam headlight that lights up the road and two taillights, one of which flashes.

If you have a question about bicycling in Maricopa County, send a message to reedkempston@mail.maricopa.gov.

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